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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 10204 160928Z

10
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 EUR-12 COME-00 ISO-00

TRSE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /078 W
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P 160900Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2100

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, EAGR, USSR
SUBJECT: DETERIORATION IN USSR GRAIN SITUATION

1. FAO'S GLOBAL INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM HAS ISSUED ITS FIRST QUOTE FOOD FLASH UNQUOTE WITH TITLE GIVEN IN SUBJECT CAPTION ABOVE ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TO PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS. IN THIS FIRST RELEASE, DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM DID NOT FUNCTION AS PLANNED, AND RELEASE WAS PROVIDED ONLY TO ROME REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN SYSTEM. HEREAFTER SUCH FLASHES WILL BE TRANSMITTED IMMEDIATELY TO GOVERNMENTS, WITH INFO COPY TO ROME LIAISON OFFICERS. TEXT OF FAO RELEASE, DATED JULY 11, FOLLOWS IN PARAGRAPH 2.

2. QUOTE:: (A) AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN "ISVESTIA" ON JULY 4 REPORTED THAT INTENSE HEAT DURING HARVEST IN FERTILE KUBAN AREA OF NORTHERN CAUCASUS HAS ENDED HOPES OF A RECORD WINTER GRAIN CROP IN THE SOVIET UNION. ON JULY 9, AFTER THE RETURN FROM THE U.S.S. R. OF A UNITED STATES MISSION, THE USDA REDUCED ITS FORECAST OF SOVIET GRAIN CROP TO 195 MILLION TONS. THIS COMPARES TO OFFICIAL PRODUCTION TARGET OF 215 MILLION TONS AND LAST YEAR'S CROP OF 195.6 MILLION TONS.

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PAGE 02 ROME 10204 160928Z

(B) THE DETERIORATING U.S.S.R. CROP PROSPECTS COINCIDED WITH

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

UNOFFICIAL REPORTS OF HEAVY U.S.S. R. PURCHASES OF NORTH AMERICAN GRAIN, AND OF BOOKING OF SHIPS ON BEHALF OF SOVIET UNION. THESE REPORTS STILL LACK FULL CONFIRMATION BUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INDICATED POTENTIAL SALES OF 5 TO 10 MILLION TONS.

(C) THE EFFECT OF ANY SOVIET UNION GRAIN PURCHASES ON THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION WILL DEPEND ON (1) SIZE OF PURCHASES, (2) TOTAL EXPORTABLE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE IN WORLD MARKETS, (3) PRODUCTION IN OTHER MAJOR IMPORTING REGIONS. U.S.S.R. IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF 10-15 MILLION TONS NOW APPEAR LIKELY, BUT THEY COULD BE HIGHER IF THE CROP DETERIORATES FURTHER. SERIOUS FLOODS IN SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE IMPORT REQUIREMENTS IN THAT REGION. IMPORTS BY THE U.S.S.R. OF ABOUT 10-15 MILLION TONS AT LEAST HALF OF WHICH MAIZE WOULD NOT CREATE SUPPLY PROBLEMS; SALES OF 7 TO 10 MILLION TONS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN ANTICIPATED BY FAO. IN THE TWO MAJOR EXPORTERS, UNITED STATES AND CANADA, CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE FOR INCREASED GRAINS PRODUCTION BUT STOCKS ARE MINIMAL. PROGRESS OF RICE CROPS IN FAR EAST, WHERE MONSOON HAS BEGUN FAVORABLY, WILL BE CRUCIAL FACTOR AFFECTING 1975/76 CEREAL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS. END QUOTE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: TO DESIGNATE FORMALLY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO AS LIAISON WITH FAO GLOBAL INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CROP DESTRUCTION, PRESS COMMENTS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750245-0537
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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